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Chilean Court Investigates Death Of Diplomat Tied to Letelier Case

By JUAN de ONIS

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SANTIAGO, Chile, March 7—A Chilean diplomat who might have identified two men wanted for questioning in the bombing that killed former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington died five months ago under mysterious circumstances.

The diplomat, Guillermo Osorio, had signed a request to the United States Embassy here that diplomatic visas be granted to two men carrying official passports issued by his office.

The passports, with false names, were used by two men who entered the United States in July 1976 and who are suspected of having arranged with Cuban exiles to blow up Mr. Letelier's car in September. The exiled Mr. Letelier was an active opponent of the military regime here.

A Federal court in Washington asked Chile's judicial authorities to question the two men who used the passports. The Chilean Supreme Court granted the request late yesterday and a member of the court will be appointed to carry out the questioning.

Identity of Men Not Known

The identity of the two men, however, is not known. The names on the passports, Juan Williams Rose and Alberto Romeral Jara, are false. A man named in the local press as being one of them on the basis of photographs has denied any involvement. Rafael Undurraga Cruzat, an electronics technician reported to be the man named as Alberto Romeral Jara, said he had never been in the United States. The other supposed missing person, Michael Townley, was reported to be in Santiago, but has not made a public appearance.

The death of Mr. Osorio is the subject of a court inquiry. According to legal sources, the death certificate gave the

cause of death as a heart attack. A new autopsy was ordered after members of his family said he had been shot in the head, and the body has been exhumed.

The day the diplomat died in his bedroom he had been to an official lunch for visiting Peruvian military authorities. According to his wife, he came home accompanied by Gen. Juan Manuel Contreras Sepilveda, who was then the head of Chile's National Intelligence Directorate.

Family members said he had been in good spirits up to the day of his death, particularly after having been told he was to be appointed to an important ambassadorship. Reports at the time that he had committed suicide were not dispelled by the death certificate, which was issued by the Chilean Forensic Institute.

Department of Justice investigators in Washington inquiring into Mr. Letelier's death believe that the two bearers of the passports were agents of Chile's secret intelligence service, then under orders of General Contreras. The general is now a high official in the Army Ministry and a close adviser to President Augusto Pinochet.

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